

Flying Ducks shot down

Gymnasts' win streak halted at 26

By JIM VITTI
Of the Emerald

Ten UCLA Bruins and seven Japanese all-stars did Friday what 73 teams couldn't do for five years as both squads beat the Oregon men's gymnastics team to snap the Flying Ducks' dual meet winning streak at 26.

Oregon, 2-2, was ranked third nationally going into the meet.

The Japanese team, which consisted of three of the nation's top collegiate performers and four of the top preps, chalked up 277.70 points. UCLA, 1-0, tallied 276.45 and the Flying Ducks scored 271.30. "I'm proud of how we did," said Oregon coach Bill Ballester. "We didn't really expect to win, this being a rebuilding year for us and UCLA being as strong as they are."

UCLA is the odds-on favorite to take the Pacific-10 title away from Oregon, a position the Flying Ducks have held four years in a row, Ballester said.

"They (the Bruins) are loaded," he said. "If anybody can challenge Nebraska for the national title, they can. They have five super all-arounders and plenty of super specialists."

Japan's Shinji Kanda took first in the all-around with a 57.10 total. He placed first on floor exercise (9.70), vault (9.80) and parallel bars (9.80), tied for second on pommel horse (9.35), took fourth on high bar (9.50) and tied for sixth on rings (9.35).

Mitch Gaylord (56.60) and Peter Vidmar (55.40) took second and fourth, respectively, for UCLA, while Kelly Crumley (55.20) placed fifth to pace the Flying Ducks.

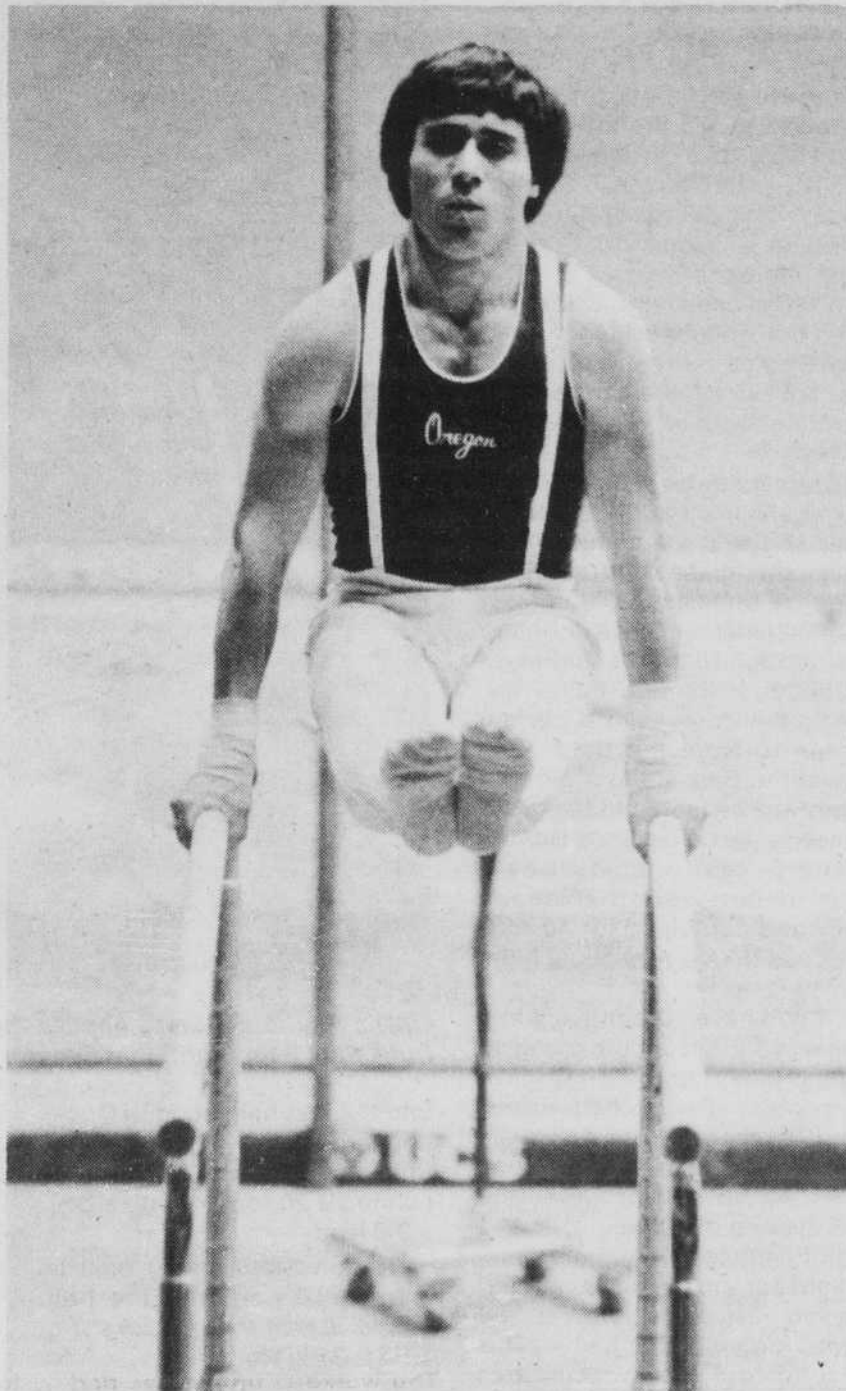
The only individual winner for Oregon, sophomore Alex Schwartz, set a University record with a 9.75 performance on the rings.

"Alex proved he's one of the best in the world," Ballester said. "Some world class ringmen were here for the judges to compare him to, and he beat them all."

Schwartz shared the old record, 9.70, with 1978 all-American Scott McEldowney.

UCLA's Gaylord was close on Kanda's heels throughout the meet. His 9.80 took first on high bar, while Vidmar won the pommel horse with a 9.40.

Crumley tied for sixth on floor



Johnny Moyal

Photo by Steve Dykes

exercise (9.30), took sixth on pommel horse (9.20) and parallel bars (9.10), and tied for fifth on high bar (9.45).

Other individuals who placed for Oregon were All-American James Yuhashi (third, 9.55) on floor exercise, Bob Leverage (tie for fourth, 9.25) on pommel horse, and Randy Jepson (second, 9.55) on rings.

Japan's Satoshi Tada took third in the all-around with a 55.95.

Oregon will face the University of British Columbia Friday while the women will host the University of Minnesota in a co-ed meet at McArthur Court.

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